

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12611 011129Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-02 ACDA-07 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
OMB-01 IO-13 OIC-02 DHA-02 /080 W  
-----028503 011132Z /15

O R 011118Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6671  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12611

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY  
BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: CSCE, UK, US  
SUBJECT: CSCE - BRITISH CONCERN WITH DURATION ISSUE

REF: KAHANE-KORNBLUM TELECONS OF 7/28/77

1. AS REPORTED IN REF TELECONS, HMG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS A "SOFTENING" IN THE US POSITION ON THE DURATION QUESTION IN THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AGENDA (POINT 13 IN NNA PAPER).
2. FCO HAS INSTRUCTED UKDEL CSCE TO STAND FAST IN FAVOR OF "CONSENSUS TO CLOSE" AND HAS INFORMALLY TOLD US OF ITS CONVICTION THAT A COMPROMISE FAR MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE PROPOSED TO DATE FOR POINT 13 CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SOVIETS IF THE WEST IS WILLING TO STARE THEM DOWN.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 12611 011129Z

3. THIS THEME IS ECHOED IN THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN THE AUGUST 1ST EDITION OF THE "TIMES." UNDER THE TITLE, "STAND FAST IN BELGRADE," THE EDITORIAL (WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS AUTHORED BY RICHARD DAVY) SAYS, "THE AMERICANS STARTED OUT PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO AN OPEN-ENDED CONFERENCE AND EVEN REPROACHED THE NINE FOR SUGGESTING A TARGET DATE. LAST WEEK THE POSITION AMERICAN POSITION

SOFTENED, EITHER BECAUSE OF INDECISION IN WASHINGTON OR BECAUSE OF WORRY ABOUT THE WIDER DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. . . . THE AMERICANS SHOULD NOT GIVE IN. . . FOR THE SAKE OF PROBABLY ILLUSORY ADVANTAGES WHICH THEY MAY HOPE FOR IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THEY TRIED TO DO THE SAME THING UNDER A DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATION DURING THE PRE-HELSINKI NEGOTIATIONS. IT BROUGHT THEM NO DISCERNIBLE BENEFIT. IF THEY FEEL THE NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW THEY SHOULD CHOOSE SOME OTHER MEANS OF DOING SO."

4. COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF WE WERE IN A POSITION TO EXPLAIN TO THE FCO CURRENT US VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE TO WHICH HMG ATTACHES IMPORTANCE.

BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009